

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT Medical Information, Plovdiv

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REFERENCES

1. Plovdiv with a population of 200,000 has six dispensaries, each with sections for internal diseases, pediatrics, surgery, ear, throat and nose, gynecology, X-ray, and dentistry. Dispensary No. 1, the largest, is located in a 3-story building in the center of the city. Dispensary No. 4, which occupies a 1-story building in the Vostanicheski Quarter, employs 19 physicians. Until 1953 each dispensary was an independent organization responsible directly to the municipal health department. Lately attempts have been made to attach each dispensary to a hospital, thus enabling physicians to advance in their work by partial employment in the hospital (sic).
2. All residents of a district are entitled to receive medical treatment only at their district dispensary. A district is divided into sub-districts, each of which has one physician. Dispensaries work in two shifts, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The subdistrict physicians spend six hours in the district dispensary and two hours visiting patients at their homes. Other physicians either work eight hours at the dispensary or work part time at the dispensary and part time at the hospital. Doctors employed by government institutions are entitled to practice privately after regular working hours. Physicians who do not work in a government institution and do not have a valid reason, e.g. poor health, are not entitled to practice privately.
3. Medical treatment, including dentistry, is administered free of charge to the population. Drugs are purchased in pharmacies against a doctor's prescription. There is an acute shortage of drugs, and also of materials for dentistry. Physicians have been instructed to issue prescriptions only for drugs available in the pharmacies. Prescriptions for penicillin and streptomycin may be issued only when a patient's life is in danger, and must be signed by three physicians and confirmed by the district physician. Sandoz calcium is very hard to obtain. Materials for dentistry, such as rubber, false teeth, material for crowns, drills, etc., are in very short supply. They are imported mainly from Czechoslovakia, Germany and Israel in limited quantities and are allocated only to dispensaries.

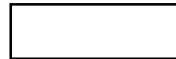
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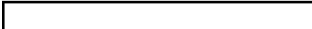
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Private dentists must turn to the black market, where these materials are also hard to obtain. Gold is available in unlimited quantities. It can be obtained in a special government store against a dentist's prescription at 480 leva per gram.


4. Male physicians up to 60 years of age and female physicians up to 55 years of age have military booklets. Those for males have red covers and those for females have blue covers.  the contents of both booklets are identical. The booklet has about 20 white pages. It contains special pages for personal information, photograph, military rank and VOS (military specialty) number. The rank and the VOS number are entered as follows:

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Name	Number	Military Rank	VOS	Zapasen (Reserves)
No changes have been made to physicians' booklets except in the VOS number. VOS 516 was changed to VOS 56. Informant believes that all physicians 50 years old receive VOS 56, and younger ones are given a higher number.				

5. Kazakov (fnu), a specialist in internal diseases, is the head of the Plovdiv Municipal Health Department. 

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6. Atanas Samokovliev, a specialist in ear, throat and nose diseases, is the head of Dispensary No. 1 at Plovdiv. 

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